

December 18, 2003

## NEWS For Immediate Release NEWS

### **Winter Bull Moose Season on Yukon Drainage portion of Unit 18, upriver of Mt. Village Announced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the US Fish and Wildlife Service**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are announcing a winter season for residents to harvest bull moose in a portion of Unit 18. The season will be open from December 27, 2003 through January 5, 2004 on federal and non-federal lands westerly of a line from the mouth of the Ishkowi River to the closest point of Dall Lake then to the easternmost point of Takslesluk Lake then along the Kuskokwim River drainage boundary to the Unit 18 border and south and east of a line from Cape Romanzof to Kuzilvak Mountain to Mountain Village, and within all Yukon River drainages upriver from Mt. Village. Note that this season opening **does not** include that portion of Unit 18 south and east of, and including, the Kuskokwim River drainage and it **does not** include the area on the Yukon River downstream from Mountain Village. The harvest limit is one bull and under federal regulations, a legal bull must have antlers.

Federal subsistence and state regulations allow for this winter season to be opened by announcement. Prior to opening the winter season, local federal and state wildlife managers conferred with local villages to assess preferred season dates. The season chosen reflects this consultation and includes concerns that: travel conditions are safe within our ability to predict them, the announced moose season does not interfere with celebrations of Christmas or Slavic, the season is not opened after February since too many bulls would have lost their antlers, and administrative considerations.

The Kuskokwim River drainage and southeastern portions of Unit 18 remain closed after considerable discussion with the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee, the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and area villages. The consensus was to leave this portion of Unit 18 closed to allow a moose population to become established. The number of moose in this portion of Unit 18 is considerably smaller than the habitat could support.

Hunters are reminded that a current State of Alaska hunting license and a moose harvest ticket are required. Harvest reports from this hunt are eligible for an ADF&G prize drawing. An unused 2003 moose harvest ticket issued for the fall season is still valid for the 10-day winter season. However, all hunters must obtain a valid 2004 hunting license after January 1. Only one bull moose may be taken under the combined state and federal winter seasons. Hunters who harvested a moose anytime after July 1 may not harvest an additional moose during this season.

#### **For Additional Information:**

Contact the US Fish & Wildlife Service in Bethel at 800-621-5804 or 907-543-3151 or,

Contact the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Bethel at 800-425-2979 or 907-543-2979.

---

Unit 18 moose hunt area:

